Statement

Main findings of Global Employment Trends for Women

The Main findings of Global Employment Trends for Women Brief, March 2007 are as follows:—

* In absolute numbers, more women than ever before are participating in labour markets worldwide. They are either in work or actively looking for a job.
* During the past ten years, the labour force participation rate (the share of working-age women who work or are seeking work) stopped growing, with many regions registering declines. This reversal is notable, even though it partially reflects greater participation of young women in education.
* More women than ever before are actually in work. The female share of total employment stayed almost unchanged at 40 percent in 2006 (from 39.7 per cent 10 years ago).
* At the same time, more women than ever before are unemployed, with the rate of women's unemployment (6.6 per cent) higher than that of men (6.1 per cent).
* Women are more likely to work in low productivity jobs in agriculture and services. Women's share in industrial employment is much smaller than men and has decreased over the last ten years.
* The poorer the region, the greater the likelihood that women work as unpaid contributing family members or low-income own-account workers. Female contributing family workers, in particular, are not likely to be economically independent.
* The step from unpaid contributing family workers or low-paid own-account worker to wage and salaried employment is a major step toward freedom and self-determination for many women. The share of women in wage and salaried work grew during the past ten years from 42.9 per cent in 1996 to 47.9 per cent in 2006. However, especially in the world's poorest regions, this share is till smaller for women than for men.
* Young women are more likely to be able to read and write than 10 years ago. But there is still a gap between female and male education levels. And there is considerable doubt that women get the same chance as men to develop their skills throughout their working lives.

New law for child labour

†971. SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH:
SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:
SHRI KESHUBHAI S. PATEL:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that child labour is going on unchecked in all metropolitan cities including capital, Delhi;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the present law of the country is incapable of stopping these who employ child labourers and there is a need to make changes in it;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, whether Government are considering to enact a new law to stop child labour; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Child Labour is a socio economic problem primarily a result of poverty and illiteracy. Considering the nature and magnitude of the problem, Government is following a sequential approach of initially withdrawing and rehabilitating children working in hazardous occupations and processes. Children are also migrating for work to metropolitan cities from less developed areas of the country. Government is taking various measures for the rescue and rehabilitation of these children.

(b) Adequate provisions exist under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 to take action against those employing children in hazardous work. State Governments are appropriate authorities for enforcement of the provisions of the Act for the areas in their jurisdiction. During 1997-98 to 2005-06, 38.77 lakhs inspections were carried out in the country resulting in 87359 numbers of prosecutions and 30483 convictions.

(c) No such proposal is under the consideration of the Government.

(d) Does not arise.

Injustice to contract workers in ONGC

972. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware about the injustice to contract workers in ONGC, which is one of the biggest PSU in the country; and

(b) whether the Ministry ever monitored the functions of Central Labour Commissioner posted at Mumbai, Ahmedabad (Gujarat) and Assam with reference to the grievances of regular and contract workers in ONGC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) The Government is aware of violations of the provisions of the Contract Labour Act by various PSUs. Necessary remedial action is taken immediately to safeguard the interest of Contract Workers and to prevent the recurrence of such injustices in the future.

(b) The Ministry of Labour & Employment monitors regularly the functioning of its Offices of Chief Labour Commissioners (Central) located all over the country, including Mumbai, Ahmedabad (Gujarat) and Assam.

Unemployment allowance to unemployed

973. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the report of National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) highly educated persons are more unemployed than less educated persons;

(b) whether as per NSSO report half of the population of the country is unemployed;

(c) if so, the measures taken to create more job opportunities; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to pay unemployment allowance to unemployed persons according to their education and if not, the reasons therefor?